

Remarks

The Examiner rejects claims 2 to 4, 6 to 9 and 12 to 14 under 35 USC §112 as being Indefinite for failure to provide sufficient antecedent basis. Claim 6 and claim 12 have been amended to address the Examiner's rejection. However, no amendments are made to the remaining claims. Insufficient antecedent basis occurs where there is no earlier reference to a feature later referred to in a claim. Typically this occurs when the definite article "the" or "said" is used to qualify a feature which is introduced for the first time. The Examiner will see that claims 2 to 4 ("A system as claimed in claim 1") and 6 to 9 ("A method as claimed in claim 11") use the indefinite article "a" and therefore do not require antecedent basis.

The Examiner rejects claims 1 to 4, 6 to 9, 11 to 14, 16 to 18 and 22 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mikkonen (US 6,501,741) in view of Das (US 6,742,036). Applicants respectfully traverse the Examiner's rejection for the following reasons.

Firstly, the Examiner argues that Mikkonen discloses a dynamic address variation facility for managing mobility referring to column 3, lines 55 to 60 and column 6, lines 23 to 24 of Mikkonen. However, unlike IPv6 and Mobile IP (MIP) which are protocols which provide a dynamic address variation facility for managing mobility, DHCP as disclosed in Mikkonen does not have such a facility and this would be recognized by one skilled in the art. DHCP is a protocol for assigning an IP address to a host on a network when that host starts up. It has absolutely no mechanism for handling mobility of hosts. DHCP merely enables host IP addresses to be assigned within a domain by a central mechanism rather than through static configuration of each host. Accordingly, one skilled in the art would appreciate that Mikkonen does not disclose a dynamic address variation facility for managing mobility.

The Examiner further argues that Das teaches to support use of a second address to identify the first node instead of the first address in response to a non-mobility related requirement to use the second address to identify the first node. The Examiner refers to column 3, lines 29 to 40. Applicants cannot understand the Examiner's argument. The passage teaches that a server agent releases an address from a pool of addresses and associates it with the identity of the subscriber. Applicants cannot understand that this passage discloses the existence of first and second addresses nor that it discloses the use of a second address instead of a first address in response to a non-mobility related requirement. Applicants believe that there is no disclosure of these features in Das. However, if the Examiner intends to maintain his rejection on this basis he is kindly requested to carefully explain how Das teaches the claimed features in order that the applicants may understand the rejection. In particular, the Examiner is requested to identify what in Das is alleged to teach the:

- a) first address;
- b) second address; and
- c) non-mobility related requirement.

Furthermore, applicants deny that there would be any suggestion or motivation to combine teachings from Mikkonen and Das as argued by the Examiner. The Examiner is clearly indulging in impermissible hindsight by picking and mixing alleged features from totally unrelated items of the prior art.

The Examiner further rejects claims 5, 10, 15, 19 to 21 and 23 under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Mikkonen in view of Das and further in view of Lemilainen (US 6,681,259). Those rejections are submitted to be moot in view of the above.

Accordingly, applicants believe the application is allowable. However, if the Examiner maintains his rejections, the applicant kindly requests that the Examiner

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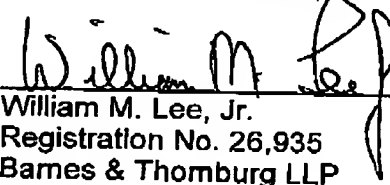
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address each feature of each of the claims and, in particular, the feature that the second address is used instead of the first address in response to a non-mobility related requirement. In this sense, the present invention teaches re-using a dynamic address variation facility for mobility management in a non-mobility context. Applicants ask the Examiner to note that all of the items of prior art cited by the Examiner are related to conventional mobility related environments and therefore do not teach using a dynamic address variation for mobility management in a non-mobility context.

Favorable reconsideration is urged.

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Respectfully submitted,


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